

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

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COLLEGE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

September 6, 1967

TO: The members of panel #23  
FROM: H. Orin Halvorson, Chairman

The central committee consisting of the Chairman of the various panels or their representatives met at Hope Farm near Williamstown, Massachusetts to review the various panel reports. The meeting started Monday morning August 28 and continued until late Thursday evening, August 31.

After a general session on Monday morning during which Dr. Handler outlined procedures to be followed, the group was divided into several study sections and each section reviewed one or two draft reports each day. We took turns acting as chairman but no one served as chairman for his own report.

Our panel report was reviewed Wednesday afternoon and encountered some serious objections. Some of the committee members had very strong feelings about our treatment of BW--so much so that our discussion on Wednesday afternoon reached an impasse. Because of this the discussion was continued Wednesday evening with the entire group participating. Some of the members objected not only to our discussion of BW but also to our references to the stockpiling of foods because of possible atomic attacks. Another point of contention was on the interpretation of the use of defoliants in Vietnam. A few wanted to classify these as BW weapons. I could not accept this or agree to such admission in our report.

The discussion extended late into the evening and it became apparent that it would be virtually impossible to prepare a statement about BW on which everyone could agree. Any statement short of this could lead to controversy that might endanger the value of the entire volume. I took the stand that it would be unwise to prepare a draft report on the contribution of biology to national defense without including a discussion on BW. Dr. Handler concurred in this feeling and so did a significant number of the members present. As the discussion continued it appeared that it was the consensus of the group that the entire chapter dealing with the contribution of biology to national defense should be deleted from the report and Dr. Handler so ruled. No formal vote was taken.

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I am sorry that these decisions could not have been reached before we started our work, however, I do not believe this would have been possible before our statement had been prepared and presented to a group of this kind.

I might mention that the study group examined the individual reports very critically and all but two chairman must redraft their reports. This would have been our lot also if the chapter dealing with biology and national defense were to remain in the final report and would entail further meetings of the committee. Our case would have been more difficult however because of the delicate subject matter to be handled.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your valued help and splendid cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
H. Orin Halvorson

HOH:jr  
cc: Dr. Handler  
cc: Dr. Pahl